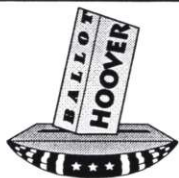


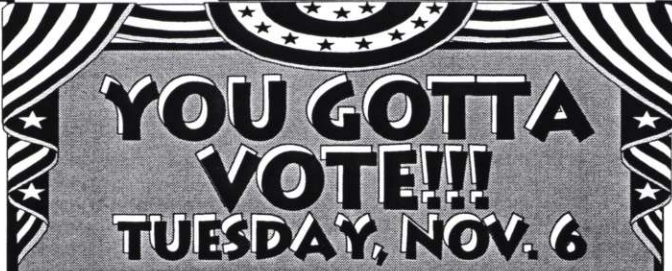
VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

VOL. 4 NO. 10 NOVEMBER 2001



**ALLENTOWN
CITY COUNCIL
CANDIDATE
GAIL HOOVER
ENDORSED BY
PA-GALA
AND THE
MORNING CALL**



**PA-GALA'S
CANDIDATE
GUIDE
IS IN THE MAIL!**

For further election information see page 7. There are many important races, read all about them in the PA-GALA candidate guide "Gay & Lesbian Vote." If you don't get a copy in the mail, you can pick one up anywhere you get VFP.



**ALLENTOWN
MAYORAL
CANDIDATE
ROY AFFLERBACH
ENDORSED BY
PA-GALA
AND THE
MORNING CALL**



THEY KNOW IF YOU DON'T VOTE

be-
is a
and
register
record.

It is vitally important for you to come a supervisor. A supervisor person who votes in every primary general election. Whether you are ed and vote, is a matter of public record. Politicians have these records and frankly, they use them to determine whether or not to pay attention to you.

The reason there is so much attention paid to senior citizen issues is because most supervisors are usually older than 65. But the number of GLBT supervisors has grown rapidly since PA-GALA began to direct mail voter information to our community, four years ago. That's why the candidates have begun to show up at our events and pay attention to our issues. In some parts of the Lehigh Valley our GLBT votes have won elections. If you are a voter, they want your vote, so they listen to you. Use your PA-GALA candidate guide and VOTE on Nov. 6.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

On November 17, at 8:00 p.m. the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus will join with the Concord Chamber Singers and Another Octave Women's Chorus to present "Sing for the Cure," a work commissioned by the Susan Komen Foundation to raise breast cancer awareness.



The concert, to be held at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St. in Bethlehem, is co-sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Health Network / Muhlenberg Breast Health Center. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved by calling (610) 366-3320.

20% of ticket proceeds will go directly toward the fight against breast cancer.

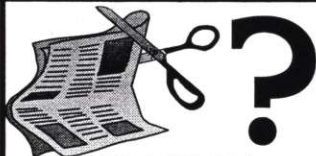
MCCLV GETS SURPRISE

**333% RENT INCREASE
FROM UKLV, READ ABOUT IT - PAGE 6**



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION

At their regularly scheduled 5:50 p.m. Sunday service on December 2, MCCLV (424 Center St., Bethlehem) will commemorate World AIDS Day. The service will be a time to remember those who have died and will be a celebration of life.



UPDATE ON DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS AT THE MORNING CALL SEE PAGE 7

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

FACT SNOW BALL DECEMBER 2

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together, is having its annual benefit Snow Ball on Dec 2. Cocktails - 6pm, dinner at 7pm. at the Clarion Hotel (formerly the Hilton) in Allentown, Continuous entertainment will include the Lucky 7 dance band, StevieZ at the piano, and D.J. Mary Glennon. Tickets are \$55 per person (cash bar). For reservations call: 610-437-6433.





"MY MOM LOVES A GIRL"

Remember that dating column I wrote a few months ago? Well, I am happy to report that all is well and I am seeing a wonderful woman with a teenage daughter of her own.

It has been interesting, exhilarating, and frightening to explore the idea of combining our two families. We have both been single for a long time and had gotten used to great autonomy and our children were very used to having Mom all to themselves. Luckily, we all seem to be getting along fine. My son delights in his new friend and ally and my daughter has another strong role model whom she adores. She is still grossed out when we kiss in front of her, "I SAW you!" but I think it's important for her to see what a loving relationship looks like.

In fact, the other day I was at her school observing her first-grade art class when, out of the blue, she stood up and announced to the class, "My Mom loves a girl!" I don't know what prompted the exclamation, she won't tell me. But, she was so proud and so happy with herself and her proclamation, that I could hardly bear to shush her. Not because of the content, but because she shouted in the middle of the otherwise quiet art class! There were other parents present as well as two teachers and an aide and I can only imagine the discussion in the teachers lounge later.

So, I decided to share this story to encourage other gay parents to come out. I want my children to be proud when they stand up for me. It won't always be the case, and I'm sure there will be some tears and fears later for them. But they don't need to worry about keeping secrets or hiding. If they want to shout, "My Mom loves a girl," from the overlook at Hawk Mountain, they can. They don't need to worry about me, my shame, or my fear. The decision to share or not will be theirs.

MCC AWARDS WINNERS

On Oct. 20, Metropolitan Community Church LV celebrated their 17th Anniversary with a Banquet at the Hotel Bethlehem. At their Anniversary Worship Service the next day, Rev. Pat Bumgardner (Pastor, MCC New York) gave a rousing and dynamic sermon.

Many awards were presented at the Banquet, for service to the church and community. "Rainbow Service" Award recipients for tangibly living out MCCLV's vision of "Bringing God's hope and sharing Christ's love with the GLBTA community," were: Barb, Cathy Burgi, Joe, Sue Carpenter, Diane, Manuel Diaz, Tom Endy, Elaine Ely, Sandy, Sally, Kay, DJ Landis, Les, Brenda Hoelman, Jason, Kevin, Kacia McMillian, Kevin Motroni, Rich, Dale, Debbie, Dawn Ross, Cris, Gretchen, Ed Verba, Amy, Ivy, Anthony, Eric Yurkanin and Steve Ziminsky.

Receiving the "Teddy Bear Care" Award (for the MCCLV congregant who has most exhibited a generous spirit of caring) was Rich. Nominees for the award included: Diane, Manuel Diaz, Terry, Dawn Ross, Gretchen, Sandy, Gregory, Amy and Anthony.

ROBERTA AND HAROLD KREIDER RECEIVED THE "SPIRIT OF COURAGE" AWARD for actively championing the GLBTA community with boldness and courage. Also nominated were Steve Black, Allyson Hamm, Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Ardath Rodale, Rep. TJ Rooney, the Unitarian congregation and Ilse Stoll Zinnes.

MANDY PATIKIN CONCERT WITH FACT

FACT will present a special fund raising event in conjunction with the Mandy Patikin Concert at Easton's State Theater on November 11. Tickets are \$75, for choice seating and a reception with the artists. This event is co-hosted by PALS. For info: 610-820-5519.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, I am 53 and considering retiring in 2 years. Of course, I will receive a pension, but one of my concerns is being able to generate a steady income throughout my retirement. My partner may not retire for a few years. What type of investment should I consider putting into my portfolio? I do plan on working until I begin to receive Social Security benefits. Signed, Future Retiree

Dear Future Retiree, It sounds to me that you want to supplement your income until you are eligible to receive your Social Security benefits. The estimate of your Soc Sec Benefits, which you should have received last year, gives you an idea of how much money you will need to generate for the 12 year timeframe, assuming you are requesting your Soc Sec benefits at age 65. In this situation, an annuity may be an appropriate investment for you. For many gay men and lesbians, annuities are a popular retirement vehicle. An annuity is a contract sold by an insurance company that guarantees payments to an annuitant at some point in the future.

Annuities are issued in two basic forms: Immediate and Deferred. Deferred is the more common choice. The owner invests money in the annuity, either as a lump sum or periodic investments. Earnings inside the annuity grow tax deferred until the money is taken out. With an immediate annuity, you pay a lump sum and the insurance company begins making payments soon after.

Payments come in one of two forms: fixed or variable. With a fixed annuity, the insurance company promises a regular fixed return, similar to the fixed coupon payments of a bond. With a variable annuity, you choose among a variety of what are basically mutual funds, called sub-accounts. These may be investment pools run by the insurance company or by mutual fund companies.

A fixed annuity payment will be "eroded" by inflation. Variable annuities, on the other hand, because they are invested in such assets as stocks, have a better chance over the long term to keep up with or outperform inflation.

Annuities are not federally guaranteed, so it is important to buy them from highly rated insurance companies. It is especially important to buy fixed annuities from a sound company. If the company goes out of business, you could lose your investment.

You will need to pay attention to choosing the best settlement option. In your situation, you may consider a 15 year payout, however, once you start annuitizing an annuity contract, you cannot change it. Gay men and lesbians may prefer joint and survivor payments, which guarantee payments to the surviving partner.

There are numerous options, so review them carefully to see what is best for you and your partner. Choices create opportunities. You are fortunate to have these opportunities. Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for American Express Financial Advisors, Inc located at 7248 Tilghman Street in Allentown. Please mail your questions or send an e-mail to Denise.M.McKelvey@AEXP.com. Information provided within this column may not be appropriate for your specific financial situation.

JOB OPENING

The Theatre Outlet is looking for a paid part-time Bookkeeper/Business Manager. Salary and hours are negotiable. Experience with non-profits and the arts, and the "Quick Books" program is a plus. The current bookkeeper/Board member is available for training/transition. Interested applicants should contact The Theatre Outlet at 610-820-9270.

HOT NEWS

ACCO

The 9th Annual Winter Solstice Concert by ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women, will be presented Friday, December 21 at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 Hamilton, Allentown. The theme of the program will center on the healing of the earth and her people. An artists' market featuring fine art and crafts of local women artists will be part of the evening's offerings. Artists' market opens 6:30 p.m.; concert begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 610-866-2071.

B&N GLBT BOOKCLUB

The book, *The Bitterweed Path*, by Thomas Hal Phillips, will be discussed at the next GLBT book club meeting at Barnes & Noble in Whitehall, on November 20 at 7:00 PM, in the cafe area. Drinks are free and conversation is always lively!

GAY MEN OF LV

GMLV will not be holding meetings during the month of November due to staff scheduling, the availability of our meeting location and the Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend, but GMLV encourages you to go to the LV Gay Men's Chorus Concert on November 17.

GMLV meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7 pm at UUCLV, 424 Center St. for information: gaymenlv@hotmail.com.

GLOSS WEBSITE

The GLOSS web site is back on line. Check it out at <<http://www.gloss.org>>. As always, suggestions, additions, corrections are welcome. The new gay friendly hosting service is Global2000 Hosting (<http://www.global2000hosting.net>).

YOUTH GROUP

The new GLBT Youth Group HAVEN, will have its first meeting on Wednesday, November 28 from 7-9 PM at UUCLV. Meetings are open to GLBT youth, & their Allies, ages 14-20 yrs. The mission of this group is to provide a safe, supportive environment, positive role models and peer support, & sponsor social and recreational activities in addition to weekly meetings. All functions will be facilitated or chaperoned by professionally trained volunteers. To learn more about HAVEN email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or call 610-868-2153.

FACT BINGO

Don't miss Bingo every Sunday at 7pm at Diamonz, hosted by Carol Ann. Begins at 7pm. All the proceeds from this weekly event benefit FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together.

3

GLORA EVENTS

GLORA (Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown) upcoming schedule: November 3 - Hayride. Dec. 2 - GLORA'S 12th anniversary dinner at Bowers Hotel. For further information contact <glorainpa@aol.com>.

PRIDE NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY EVENTS RECAP

Pride of LV thanks everyone that helped make the Valley's first-ever National Coming Out Day Celebration a success!! "A Weekend OUT in the VALLEY," was jam-packed with gay-themed events aimed at increasing awareness of the "coming out" process & celebrating GLBT culture.

GLBT YOUTH DANCE: Festivities kicked off with the Valley's first-ever GLBT YOUTH DANCE, about 50 young people from the GLBT community attended. As the evening came to an end, many were excitedly asking when the next dance would be held. Many thanks to all the wonderful people who supported the event and volunteered to help.

DIAMONZ OLDIES DANCE: Meanwhile at Diamonz, another ever-popular OLDIES' DANCE was taking place as a Pride benefit. Many thanks to those that came out to shake their groove thang & to Diamonz for hosting the event.

COMEDY NIGHT: On Saturday, Pride headed to Easton for "LAUGHING OUT LOUD." An evening of gay Comedy began with Jerry Schmidt as MC and "Noel" our local amateur comedienne. The evening did not come to a close until MadTV's openly gay comic BOB SMITH made the room roar with laughter.

TRUE COLORS DANCE: While Easton was bursting with glee, Pride was busy co-sponsoring an event on the other side of the Valley. Cedar Crest College's GLBT group Out There is happy to report their annual "TRUE COLORS DANCE" a huge success.

MCC EVENTS

Sunday, November 25 -- Evangelist Rev. Delores Berry. Singer, preacher and amazing evangelist Rev. Berry will be with the MCCCLV congregation at their regularly scheduled 5:50 p.m. Sunday service on November 25. A not-to-miss event.

Sunday, November 11 -- MCCCLV holds its Fall Congregational Meeting, immediately following its regularly scheduled 5:50 p.m. service. Information packets are available at the church.

GLOSS GAME NIGHT

The next GLOSS game night is Nov. 11, at Rob's house in Pennsburg, 2 to 8 pm. The Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society Game Night is provided as a means for people in the GLBT community to meet, socialize and have fun in a healthy, non-threatening environment. Folks get together to play board games such as Pictionary, Taboo, Monopoly, etc. If you have a favorite, bring it along, and bring a friend.

Pizza is usually ordered, so a \$5.00 contribution is requested if you eat pizza and \$2 if you don't. Drink and munchie contributions are gladly accepted. So come on down. A good time is sure to be had by all. If you have questions or need directions to Rob's house, please e-mail him at robert_oneal@merck.com. Rob has no pets. GLOSS Web: <http://www.gloss.org> Email: <info@gloss.org> Phone: 610-434-2966.

PRIDE ELECTIONS

Pride is happy to welcome new members to their board & wishes to thank the previous board for their dedication & hard work! The board will elect officers at their next meeting (all names listed in alphabetical order). Newly elected Pride Board members: Susan Baker, Arlene Baron, Carolyn Lewis, Judy McNally, Donna Merritt-Kelley, Debbie Ramsdell. Re-elected Pride Board members: Tabatha Gartner, Allyson Hamm. Continuing Pride Board members (on second year of 2-year term): John Early, Brenda Hoelman, Ilse Stoll Zinnes. Those not continuing as board members, but continuing as general members &/or committee chairs: Bridgette, Tom Cormier, Constance Kristofik.

VALLEY ARTS' FEATURES THEATRE OUTLET

In October, "Valley Arts," the RCN Cable TV program devoted to the arts in the Lehigh Valley, looked at Allentown's Theatre Outlet.

"Valley Arts" host Paul Willistein interviewed Theatre Outlet's Artistic Director George Miller and Managing Director Kate Scuffie. Also interviewed were Outlet actors Kindall Goble and Pat Kelly from the Outlet's season-opening Irish play, "A Skull in Connemara." For more info on Theatre Outlet, see their web page at www.theatreoutlet.org.

TO2 Second Stage: New Forms, New Plays & New Artists Special Events Series "THE VILLAS MAD FUN DOWNTOWN" Theatre Outlet 2, Nov. 10, tickets: \$10, A Downtown Happening! Music with The Villas. ArtLobby Gallery show by Rosemary Geseck, Grazing & Gallery Show: 7-8pm Music and Dance 8pm - ?

CALENDAR⁴

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.767.7897

AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

As If Productions - Documentary Film Makers, 610.434.7845

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay & Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

Enigma Players 610-432-0706

EQUAL at Agere - email: equal@agere

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GLEE at Air Products

GLASS-at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.3469

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagrantlyhollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA 18105-1952, email: GLORAINPA@AOL.COM

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball, Tennis, Racquet Ball . 610.434.2966.

GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.954.7775

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family and Friends 1st Monday each month 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642

KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at 6:30pm, Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna at 610.997.00607

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays, UUCLV Bethlehem. 610.366.3320, lvgmc@hotmail.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, office- 424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775

NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday from 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge), College Center call 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 882-2531

19th St/Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449

PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and gays 2nd Sundays 3pm at NCC, Coll. Cntr Rm 134 610.967.5219


<www.users.fast.net/~pflag>

Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.prideval.org>


QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College

Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA, <QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

NOVEMBER 2001 VOTE FOR GAIL!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 ACCO RAA GLOSS	2 KS	3 WDIY BEARS GLOSS GLORA
4 MCC HMFF UUCLV	5 INTEGRITY RAA RAA	6 Election Day	7	8 ACCO RAA GLOSS	9 KS	10 GMLV WDIY GLOSS T.O.
11 FACT PFLAG GLOSS MCC GAME NIGHT	12 RAA	13 GLOSS LVGMC	14	15 ACCO RAA GLOSS	16 KS	17 LVGMC CONCERT
18 MCC HMFF UUCLV	19 RAA	20 B&N Bookclub LVGMC GLOSS	21 PRIDE	22 	23 KS	24 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
25 MCC HMFF UUCLV	26 RAA	27 GLOSS LVGMC	28 HAVEN	29 RAA ACCO GLOSS	30 KS	

DECEMBER 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 WDIY GLOSS BEARS
2 FACT SNOW BALL World AIDS Day GLORA Dinner	3 INTEGRITY RAA	4 GLOSS LVGMC	5 HAVEN	6 ACCO RAA GLOSS	7 KS	8 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
9 PFLAG MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	10 RAA	11 GLOSS LVGMC	12 HAVEN	13 RAA GLOSS ACCO	14 KS	15 WDIY GLOSS
16 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	17 RAA	18 GLOSS LVGMC	19 HAVEN	20 RAA GLOSS ACCO	21 ACCO Concert	22 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
23 30 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	24 RAA MCC	25 	26	27 ACCO RAA GLOSS	28	29

JANUARY 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 GLOSS LVGMC	2 HAVEN	3 RAA GLOSS ACCO	4 KS	5 WDIY GLOSS
6 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	7 INTEGRITY RAA	8 GLOSS LVGMC	9 HAVEN	10 RAA GLOSS ACCO	11 KS	12 GMLV WDIY GLOSS GMLV
13 PFLAG MCC	14 RAA	15 GLOSS LVGMC	16 HAVEN	17 RAA GLOSS ACCO	18 KS	19 WDIY GLOSS
20 WDIY HMFF UUCLV	21 RAA	22 GLOSS LVGMC	23 HAVEN	24 RAA GLOSS ACCO	25 KS	26 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
27 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	28 RAA	29 GLOSS LVGMC	30 HAVEN	31 RAA GLOSS ACCO		

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-
Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem,
PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs.
Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Awn.
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc.,
PO Box 3624 Awn, PA 18016
610-814-5912/5913 racquel-iv@webtv.net
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College
Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533 or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming,
gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown
610.435.1587
Softball- (Women's) call Diamonz,
610.865.1028
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29Nth 9th St, Allentown,
610-820-9270.
TST- Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth.
610-867-1689, touchstone@nri.com
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV- Unitarian Universalist Church of the
Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem,
18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449
VYH - Valley Youth House weekly group for
emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481
WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30 pm
Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way
Out 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

FACT BINGO DIAMONZ -
SUNDAYS
RAINBOW BOWLING -
THURSDAYS
GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS

KINDRED SPIRITS - FRIDAYS
LV BEARS -
FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY
GAY MEN-LV -
2 & 4TH SATURDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -
TUES & THURS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL -
TUES & SATS

GLORA HAYRIDE - NOV 3
ELECTION DAY - NOV 6
TO2 SECOND STAGE NOV 10
MCC FALL MEETING - NOV 11
GLOSS GAME NIGHT - NOV 11
PELAG - NOV 11

FACT @ STATE THEATER
- NOV 11

LVMC CONCERT - NOV 17
B&N GLBT BOOK CLUB
- NOV 20

REV. BERRY @ MCC - NOV 25
HAVEN GLBT YOUTH
- NOV 28

FACT SNOWBALL - DEC 2

GLORA ANNUAL DINNER

WORLD AIDS DAY (MCC) - DEC 2

ACCO CONCERT - DEC 21

THE INFORMATION IN
THIS CALENDAR IS
SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
CALL TO CONFIRM TO
POST INFO:

610-432-5449 EMAIL:
LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

LANDMARK DECISIONS ON TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

In two landmark decisions issued on October 10, 2001, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination ruled that transgender people are protected under Massachusetts state laws prohibiting sex and disability discrimination. These decisions are the latest victories in an emerging trend among state and federal courts reversing cases from the 1970s and early 1980s in which transgender people were excluded from the civil rights protections.



CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS D.J. AND SANDY

Were joined in Civil Union in Brattleboro Vermont, by Justice of the Peace Ethel Brosnahan in October. Congratulations from VFP and all the community!

PFLAG MEETING

PFLAG- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, meets the second Sunday of each month in the College Center, Room 134 at Northampton Community College, from 3pm until 5pm. The next meeting will be November 11.

POINT ↔ COUNTER-POINT

Editors note: Some of the local gay bars have resumed underage nights. On those nights, 18 to 21-year-olds are allowed into the bars, but they are not served alcohol nor are they allowed to go into the part of the bar where it is sold to people of legal age. Many people may have an opinion about whether this is good or bad for GLBT youth. On the one hand, it can teach youth that they do not have to drink to have a good time, on the other hand it can encourage youth to frequent places where people participate in addictive behaviors.

Here are some additional thoughts from the Point / Counterpoint guys. If you have thoughts on this issue - contact VFP at <liztrish@aol.com>.

Stephen:

- For it: 1) Heterosexual kids have the same thing offered at straight clubs, so it's only fair.
2) It offers an accepting tolerant gay-friendly atmosphere most GLBT youth are not accustomed to- a welcome change from hiding at school or at home. It can be the first taste of gay freedom; a chance to express ourselves by flirting, dancing, mingling, dreaming etc.
3) The local bars have GLBT literature and newspapers about what's going on so that youth can learn about the other facets of the GLBT community.
4) Underage night is better than what was offered when I was a young gay man; fake ID's and sneaking in.

Agin it: 1) There are predators everywhere and the GLBT community is no exception. Older people may try to take advantage of youth in this situation, and youth may lack the sophistication to recognize the danger.

2) A gay bar may be a target for hate crimes. Though the gay bars in the area have postings that warn homophobic attitudes will not be tolerated, youth may be targeted outside the bar.

Personally, I love going out to dance and see my bar friends. Along with my career, activism, volunteer work, natural family and family of choice, this helps me to be a complete person.

Jason:

As a gay male that has only been of age for a few years, I feel that the the underage nights out at the Stonewall were some of the more defining times in my years as a youth in the gay community. I used to wait all week long for Wed. nights so I could go out with my friends, dance, and just be gay.

The bar on underage night gave me the opportunity to meet some of the greatest friends I have. It also gave me a chance to see what the gay community had to offer. I met people who were into activism, some who were alcoholics, and others who were just going out to relax. I met people who gave me some great insight, and of course other people who were looking for nothing more than a one night stand. Being able to come out to the bar at a younger age allowed me to prepare myself for the years to come.

I think that for kids coming out now, "underage night" allows them to meet people of their own age group, and also gives them the opportunity to meet people who have been out in the gay world, and who have been through many different things. It was a wonderful and enlightening part of my youth, and I think it is something all gay youth should have the opportunity of experiencing.

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.



Dear WTA: I've heard that UUCLV has informed MCC of a huge rent increase and that MCC only has 30 days to decide what to do. Why is UUCLV raising the rent so steeply and why didn't they give MCC more warning about the increase? **Signed Worried about the GLBT Church**

Dear Worried: The Unitarian Universalist Church LV owns their building at 424 Center St. in Bethlehem and rents out sections to other organizations. The Metropolitan Community Church LV has been renting a small office for the pastor, and the Church Sanctuary on Sunday evenings, for several years. MCC also occasionally has meetings there.

We called UUCLV and talked to Kate McVey, who said she could give us some information about this issue. She told us that MCC has been paying \$282 a month (or \$3384 a year) to rent that space. However, after careful consideration, the UUCLV Grounds Committee decided, based on the space and what they charge other groups, to now charge MCCLV \$1000 a month (\$12,000 a year - a 300%+ increase). She said they had considered charging MCCLV \$24,000 a year but decided that was too steep an increase. MCC was given a letter with notification of the increase and that it would begin Nov. 30.

Ms. McVey told VFP that the operating costs of UUCLV are high and that MCC has not had a rate increase for five years. She also said that MCC has been using more space each year and has not been charged for the higher usage. VFP asked what UUCLV thought MCC would do, when faced with this increase. Ms. McVey said, she felt that UUCLV hoped MCCLV would stay.

VFP asked if UUCLV had been contacted by another church that wanted to rent the space and would be willing to pay \$12,000 a year. She said no. She did say UUC is contacted by many groups who want to rent space. VFP asked Ms. McVey why MCC was not told more in advance that the rate was going to more than triple on November 30. She responded that MCC should have known the rate was going to go up, since they have been paying such a low amount for so long.

VFP asked: if a tenant was renting an apartment for say...\$600 a month, the tenant might find a rent increase to \$800 (a little more than 30% higher) a bearable hardship, but if the landlord raised the rent, from \$600 a month to \$2000 (about 300% higher) what would the tenant probably do? Ms. McVey said she thought the tenant would go to the landlord and try to work it out. VFP suggested that it would be more realistic to assume the tenant would leave, unless the tenant had had a huge increase in salary or revenue over that period. Ms. McVey acknowledged that MCC had not had that kind of revenue increase.

VFP mentioned that many of the groups (from the gay community) who have been meeting at UUCLV in the past, have now decided to leave because they have been told they must pay a rate they cannot afford for the space (they have also been asked to provide their own insurance coverage). She responded that yes, these groups have been able to meet there for free in the past and that isn't helping UUCLV with operating costs. She said that if UUC doesn't get fees and if they cannot meet expenses, then no one will be able to meet there, "not even us." She said, "we have to take care of ourselves."

HIV TESTING

For free HIV counseling and testing: Allentown Health Bureau, 245 North 6th St. Allentown. 610-437-7742, FAX 610-437-8799

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SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



I HAD A PLAN...

On October 12 history was made in the Lehigh Valley GLBT community when Pride LV, LV-PFLAG and UUCLV organized the first GLBT youth dance. About 50 students attended, representing various LV high schools and colleges.

Times change (Thank God). When I was a canary at William Allen High School I would never have thought of going to a GLBT function. In fact, I came out much later in my life. On my 24th birthday I finally decided to do something about what I had known all along. I resolved to come out in grand style. I had a plan. I would exit stage right out of the closet in the city that never sleeps, the epicenter of the Gay World east of the Mississippi: New York, New York.

From my days of drama club at Allen (The Barber in "Man of La Mancha") I knew plenty of actor/waiter/bartenders in the city who would let me crash on a spare couch. I knew there were gay folks in NYC because I saw Madonna's "Truth or Dare." So I knew they were there somewhere...but where?

I went to the Allentown Public Library to the phone book section. In the Manhattan yellow pages I looked up the word "gay," (yes, I really did this). There was one listing for the Gay & Lesbian Community Center. I wrote down the number and went to a pay phone at the Allentown Fairgrounds.

I remember being so nervous; I was about to talk to another gay person for the first time in my life. Instead all I heard was a recording. The message did give bar listings. I wrote them down and waited two months until Thanksgiving, so I could take a long three-day weekend in NYC.

After dropping off my stuff at a friend's tiny apartment, I went to the first bar on the list. I remember thinking what are these guys going to be like? What if I am walking into the bar at the exact moment somebody from Allentown drives past and recognizes me? (After stopping to think, I rationalized the odds of that happening were too great to worry about it.) My first visit to a gay bar proved to be easier than I thought. There were gorgeous men in there and one beautiful over-the-top drag queen. Although I knew no one and talked to nobody, I really did feel like I had arrived and I have never looked back.

And so my little chipmunk readers I have to sign off. I have to prepare for my Coming Out Anniversary.

PA-GALA CANDIDATE NIGHT A SUCCESS

PA-GALA - The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance for political action thanks Dr. John Cochran and Family Health Chiropractic for hosting a terrific fundraiser and candidate night in October. About 70 people attended including 12 candidates representing various elective races throughout the Lehigh Valley. PA-GALA was especially pleased to have both the Democrat and Republican candidates for Mayor of Allentown, and Lehigh County Executive, and endorsed candidates for Allentown City Council, Gail Hoover and Julio Guridy. Several other Lehigh and Northampton County candidates were also there.

Representatives from the boards of many organizations from the GLBT community were there including: Steve Black from PA-GALA, Allyson Hamm and John Early from Pride LV, Rev. Beth Goudy of MCCLV, Jim Palmquist of PFLAG, Scott Laubner from GLISN at Dun & Bradstreet, Tracy Denton from GLEE at Air Products, and other representatives from GLOSS, FACT, GMLV, LV Gay Men's Chorus, and VFP. Attendees talked with and lobbied candidates on various issues. It was one of the most successful events PA-GALA has ever had.

A VIEW FROM A DYKE BY LIZ BRADBURY

THE ELECTION: CITY COUNCIL

I'm only going to talk about the two most important races in this election, because you can read about the rest of this election's races in the PA-GALA candidate guide "Gay & Lesbian Vote."

The first is the election of Gail Hoover for Allentown City Council. I've already said a lot about Gail's longtime commitment to the GLBT community, so I just want to add that Gail also has a huge level of commitment to local mainstream organizations and groups that work for the betterment of Allentown. She is not just a good candidate, she is the best candidate of all the seven running.

Gail has been a longtime volunteer to everything from the International Exchange Student Host Family Program to the Historic Architectural Review Board. She's worked with Meals on Wheels, the PTA, the Allentown Preservation League, OAPA and is on the board of her Neighborhood Crime Watch. All those things were done while she was also raising a terrific daughter and running her own business and volunteering for GLBT organizations as well.

There are few people in our community who would even consider running a campaign for a year, for an elected position that requires full time work, for what amounts to about 4K a year after taxes. Still fewer could ever come up with the broad range of qualifications Gail has, that make her so "electable."

I've been at 5 or 6 of the dozens of speaking and campaign events Gail's attended in the last few weeks. She knows the issues and understands the solutions to many of the City's problems as well, and in many cases better than the other candidates. We have to get Gail elected for the good of our community and Allentown.

So if you're an Allentown voter, vote for Gail. While you can vote for four people for City Council, narrowing your vote to one or two candidates rather than four, will better help the ones you want to win.

THE ELECTION: ALLENTOWN MAYOR

Both Roy Afflerbach (D) and Bob Lovett (R) have said they will support the passage of the amendment of sexual orientation to the City's anti-discrimination ordinance. We believe they are both sincere. But there are two important points to consider.

First, Afflerbach has a long history of publicly supporting us. He was a co-sponsor of the Hate Crimes Bill way back when it was risky to do so and he's publicly supported the anti-discrimination amendment since the beginning.

The other very important issue to remember is: Afflerbach has said he will not retain Robert Daday as City Solicitor and Lovett has told PA-GALA and said publicly that he will.

Robert Daday is, in my opinion, the most openly anti-gay person in Lehigh Valley government today. He's made statements in the Morning Call against gays in the military and he's actively worked against proposed and existing policies that specifically protect gay men and lesbians from discrimination.

While I believe Lovett supports gay rights, I also believe that if he keeps Daday on as Solicitor, Daday will actively work against our rights, as he has done in the past. Trish and I had a meeting with Lovett and Daday about these issues and Daday actually made anti-gay statements and refused to say he would work for equal rights, even though Lovett proposed a plan for him to do so.

Keeping Daday on as City Solicitor would be like MCC hiring Jerry Falwell to do GLBT outreach. And since Daday is tied so closely with many of the worst decisions of the Hedyt administration, I just can't understand why Lovett wants to keep him.

So though I do believe Lovett personally believes in equal rights, I think Afflerbach, because of his understanding and longtime commitment to our issues, is the right choice for our community and what's best for Allentown.

7 D.P. BENEFITS AT THE CALL - UPDATE BY PATRICIA SULLIVAN

The Human Relations Awards Banquet is always an exciting event because it brings together the most diverse group of Allentown citizens you'll ever see in one room. And the great part about it is, most of the room is committed to supporting equality and the rest of the room at least says it is. You'd be proud to know that our community was represented at many tables. Since everyone there is primed to show their support of diversity it's a great opportunity to challenge that presumption. Who knows, you could be sitting next to a United Way board member (United Way = Boy Scouts supporters...get it?).

In last year's Dec-Jan VFP I wrote about whether the new owners of The Morning Call, the Tribune Company, would continue domestic partner benefits in their 2002 contract. I've followed this issue for a year. I made numerous calls to the Tribune offices in Chicago and to the Morning Call. But the random act of sitting next to David M. Erdman, Managing Editor of The Morning Call at the AHRC Banquet, finally got me the answer.

"Hello, I'm Patricia Sullivan, I'm from PA-GALA, the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance and my partner and I produce the Valley Free Press."

"David Erdman...Managing Editor of the Morning Call. Yes, I've seen your paper."

"Nice to meet you David, I have a question for you..."

Erdman was helpful, but he couldn't answer everything. However, the next day the VFP got a call from Jeff Scheck in Human Resources at the Morning Call. And the news is...

The enrollment period is now open for Call employees for 2002 for domestic partner benefits. The Tribune Company, owner of The Morning Call, provides: medical, dental, dependent life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment and a long term care plan for an employee's domestic partner and the natural or legally adopted children of the employee's domestic partner.

To be eligible, the employee and their domestic partner must have an exclusive, committed relationship for at least 12 months, share the same principal residence, be at least 18 years of age and mentally competent to consent to contract, not be married to or legally separated from someone else, not be related by blood to a degree that would prohibit legal marriage and be jointly responsible for each other's common welfare and living expenses. An employee may elect to cover only one domestic partner at a time and must complete both a Declaration of Domestic Partner Affidavit and a Tax Status Declaration form for the domestic partner.

Children qualify if they are natural or legally adopted/placed for adoption, unmarried and under age 19, or under age 24 if a full-time student, live with you in a regular parent-child relationship for the entire tax year (i.e., January 1 - December 31), and depend on you or your domestic partner for support and are your or your partner's dependent(s).

One more Lehigh Valley Corporation to give benefits to same-sex couples!

ALLENTOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT THANKSGIVING REMINDER

Turkey must be defrosted in a refrigerator NOT on a counter-top. Allowing a turkey to thaw at room temperature increases the multiplication of bacteria found within the turkey. Although cooking can kill bacteria, folks take a substantial risk if they thaw the turkey at room temperature. As for cider; any cider that is sold should contain a label that states if it is or isn't pasteurized. Unpasteurized cider should never be given to the elderly, chronically ill, young children or those who are immune suppressed. If the apples used have fallen on the ground, there is a possibility that they may be contaminated with ecoli bacteria. Pasteurizing kills this bacteria.

POP QUIZ

1. What European City is the latest to elect an openly gay Mayor?
A. Berlin B. Madrid C. Prague D. Warsaw
2. Jan Welles, one of the 1st female bullfighters, was a crooner for RKO Records and TV in the 50's. Her new memoir "Star Dust Girls" mentions that she slept with:
A. Betty Grable B. Betty Davis
C. Lana Turner D. Greta Garbo
3. A recent Hamilton College survey of 1000 US graduating high school seniors found that ____% approve of gay Boy Scout leaders.
A. 33 B. 45 C. 59 D. 71
4. "Dancing with Demons" is a new biography about lesbian singer: A. Melissa Etheridge B. Janis Ian
C. Dusty Springfield D. Leslie Gore
5. The new book, "Just A Mom," is by:
A. Julie Cypher B. Mary Cheney
C. Betty DeGeneres D. Madonna
6. How many Allentown same-sex couples identified themselves as domestic partners on the 2000 US Census? A. 79 B. 129 C. 215 D. 261
7. How many Emmaus same-sex couples did?
A. 3 B. 8 C. 13 D. 17
8. How about Macungie? A. 2 B. 5 C. 9 D. 13
9. English Literary scholar Stephen Knight has recently claimed that ____ was gay
A. Robin Hood B. Sir Lancelot
C. Christopher Robin D. King Arthur
10. When she was told she was a gay icon, what star was so thrilled, she considered sneaking into a West Hollywood bar to see if it were true?
A. Lucille Ball B. Carmen Miranda
C. Mae West D. Tammy Faye Baker

1 A 2 C 3 D 4 C 5 C 6 D 7 D 8 B 9 A 10 A

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We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, age, handicap or disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO
GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTE #1

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I want to say sorry to you and all the others who have been made to suffer so horribly. We in the church have a great deal to answer for. Sometimes the Bible says these things are unnatural. But, I ask, unnatural to whom? I support and firmly stand with those who say 'We are as we are and don't want to apologize for that.'

— Former Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa addressing a conference on homophobia in Cape Town, Sept. 30.

QUOTE #2

"If it means more money, sure."

— New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, agreeing to appear in drag on Showtime's "Queer as Folk" to raise money for disaster relief in the form of pledges from members of the Empire State Pride Agenda, as quoted by the New York Post, Oct. 12.

QUOTE #3

"Yes, I am volunteering to be a facilitator for the GLBT youth group Haven... I told my neighbor about it. He is in his late 60s and gay, but the idea of a gay Youth Group was so foreign to him - you should have seen the expression on his face when I told him...! He is a really nice guy, but he couldn't figure out the purpose of such a thing. It was as if he was thinking, 'Gay is something you are in secret and to other gay people. You don't learn to take PRIDE in it!'

It will truly benefit the youth of today, that they don't have to grow up feeling that way."

— Local activist Robert Rousch

Distelfink © 11/01 'Don't just gripe from the sidelines'
by Ruby Zebu

**EXCUSE ME,
DO YOU VOTE?**

**GRIPE,
GRIPE,
KEVETCH,
WHINE,
GRIPE...**

**HUH?
NO, I DON'T
BOTHER.**

**OH, OK,
WELL THEN...
SHUT UP!!!**

**HONOR AMERICAN FREEDOM
AND SUPPORT THE GLBT COMMUNITY
BY VOTING ON TUESDAY, NOV. 6**

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